



THE
CONNOISSEUR.

By Mr. T O W N,
CRITIC and CENSOR-GENERAL.

NUMBER LXXXV.

THURSDAY, September 11, 1754.

— — — — — *Nos animorum
Impulsi, et cæcâ magnâque cupidine ducti.*

HOR.



O long ago as my fourth number (the reader perhaps may not remember) I made mention of a FEMALE THERMOMETER, constructed by my ingenious friend Mr. James Ayscough, Optician, on Ludgate-Hill, and I then informed the public, that “the liquor contained
“ within the tube was a chymical mixture, which being
“ acted upon by the circulation of the blood and animal
“ spirits, would rise and fall according to the desires and
“ affections of the wearer.” But I have now the further satisfaction to acquaint my fair readers, that after several repeated trials and improvements we have at length brought

VOL. II.

G g

the

the instrument to so great a degree of perfection, that any common by-stander may, by a proper application of it, know the exact temperature of any lady's passions. The liquor, among other secret ingredients, is distilled *secundum artem* from the herbs lady's love, and maiden-hair, the wax of virgin-bees, and the five greater hot and cold seeds: and the properties of it are so subtle and penetrating, that immediately on its coming within the atmosphere of a lady's affections, it is actuated by them in the same manner, as the spirits are by the impulse of the air in the common Thermometer.

It was not without some difficulty, that we could settle the different degrees of heat and cold in a lady's desires, which it would be proper to delineate on our Thermometer: but at last we found, that the whole scale of female characters might be reduced to one or other of the following; viz.

Abandoned IMPUDENCE.

- GALLANTRY.
- LOOSE BEHAVIOUR.
- INNOCENT FREEDOMS.
- INDISCRETIONS.
- Inviolable MODESTY.

FROM these degrees, which we have accurately marked on the side of the tube, we have been able to judge of the characters of several ladies, on whom we have made the experiment. In some of these we have found the gradations very sudden; and that the liquor has risen very fast from the lowest point to the highest. We could likewise discover, that it was differently affected according to the different

different station and quality of the subject: so that the same actions, which in a lady of fashion scarce raised the liquor beyond INDISCRETIONS, in another caused it to mount almost to IMPUDENCE. Much also depended upon the air and temperature of the place, where we made our trials: and even the dress had some influence on our Thermometer; as we frequently observed, that the rise and fall of the liquor in the tube bore an exact proportion to the rise and fall of the stays and petticoat.

I SHALL now proceed to give a succinct account of the many repeated experiments, which we have made on different subjects in different places. During the winter season we had frequent opportunities of trying the effects, which the play-house, the opera, and other places of diversion, might have on the Thermometer. At the play-house we always found the liquor rise in proportion, as the drama was more or less indecent or immoral: at some comedies, and particularly the *Chances*, its elevation kept pace exactly with the lusciousness of the dialogue and the ripening of the plot; so that it has often happened, that with some subjects, at the opening of the play, the liquor has struggled a-while, and rose and sunk about the degrees just above MODESTY; but before the third act it has stood suspended at the middle point between MODESTY and IMPUDENCE; in the fourth act it has advanced as far as LOOSE BEHAVIOUR; and at the conclusion of the play it has settled at downright IMPUDENCE. At public concerts, and the opera especially, we observed that the Thermometer constantly kept time (if I may say so) with the music and singing: and both at the opera and the play-house, it always regulated its motions by the dancer's heels. We have frequently
made

made trials of our instrument at the masquerades in the *Hay-Market*: but the temperature of that climate has proved so exceeding hot, that on the moment of our coming into the room the liquor has boiled up with a surprising effervescence to ABANDONED IMPUDENCE.

DURING the summer season we have not failed to make our observations on the company at the public gardens. Here we found, indeed, that with some raw unpolished females, who came only to eat cheese-cakes and see the fire-works, the liquor did not stir beyond MODESTY; with many it has crept up to INDISCRETIONS; and with some it has advanced to LOOSE BEHAVIOUR. We had no opportunity to try our Thermometer in the dark walks: but with some subjects we have plainly perceived the liquor hastening up towards INNOCENT FREEDOMS, as they were retiring to these walks from the rest of the company; whilst with others, who have gone the same way, it has only continued to point (as it did at the beginning of our observations) at GALLANTRY. One young lady in particular we could not help remarking, whom we followed into *Vaux-Hall*, gallanted by an officer; we were glad to see, at her first going in, that the liquor, though it now and then faintly aspired towards INDISCRETIONS, still gravitated back again to MODESTY: after a turn or two in the walks we perceived it fluctuating between INNOCENT FREEDOMS and LOOSE BEHAVIOUR: after this we lost sight of them for some time; and at the conclusion of the entertainment (as we followed them out) we could not without concern observe, that the liquor was hastily bubbling up to a degree next to IMPUDENCE.

BESIDES

BESIDES the experiments on those ladies, who frequent the public places of diversion, we have been no less careful in making remarks at several private routs and assemblies. We were here at first very much surprised at the extreme degree of *Cold* which our Thermometer seemed to indicate in several ladies, who were seated round the card-tables; as we found not the least alteration in it either from the young or old: but we at last concluded, that this was owing to their love of play, which had totally absorbed all their other passions. We have, indeed, more than once perceived, that when a lady has risen from cards after so much ill luck as to have involved herself in a debt of honour to a gentleman, the Thermometer has been surprisingly effected; and as she has been handed to her chair, we have known the liquor, which before was quite stagnate, run up instantaneously to the degree of *GALLANTRY*. We have also been at the trouble to try its efficacy in the long rooms at *Bath, Tunbridge, Cheltenham* &c. as it is well known, that these places have brought about surprising changes in the constitutions of those *SICK* ladies, who go thither for the benefit of the waters.

HAVING thus sufficiently proved the perfection of our Thermometer, it only remains to acquaint my readers, that Mr, *Ayscough* will be ready to supply the public with these useful instruments, as soon as the town fills. In the mean time I would advise those ladies, who have the least regard for their characters, to reflect that the gradations, as marked on our Thermometer, naturally lead to each other; that the transitions from the lowest to the highest are quick and obvious; and that though it is very easy to advance, it is impossible to recede back again. Let them, therefore, be

careful to regulate their passions in such manner, as that their conduct may be always consistent with decency and honour; and (as *Shakespeare* says) "not stepping o'er the bounds of **MODESTY**." I shall conclude with observing, that these Thermometers are designed only for the ladies: for though we imagined at first, that they might serve equally for the men, we have found reason to alter our opinion; since, in the course of several fruitless experiments on our own sex, there has scarce appeared any medium in them between **MODESTY** and **IMPUDENCE**.

We have indeed, as I have said, observed that when a lady has risen from cards after to much ill luck as to have involved herself in a debt of honour to a gentleman, the Thermometer has been surprisingly effected; and as she has been handed to her chair, we have known the liquor, which before was quite stagnant, run up instantaneously to the degree of **CALANTRY**. We have also been at the trouble to try its efficacy in the long rooms at Bath-Town, where, *Chatterbox* &c. as it is well known, that these places have brought about surprising changes in the constitutions of those sick ladies, who go thither for the benefit of the waters.

HAVING thus sufficiently proved the perfection of our Thermometer, it only remains to acquaint my readers, that Mr. *Watt* will be ready to supply the public with these useful instruments, as soon as the materials in the mean time I would advise those ladies, who have the least regard for their characters, to reflect that the graduation is marked on our Thermometer, naturally tend to each other, the transitions from the lowest to the highest are quick and obvious; and that should it be very early to advance, it is impossible to recede back again. I am, &c.

W. J.

Vol. II